

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

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Fiftieth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 15-19 March 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

CRITERIA FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees.
2. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12; Santiago, 2002), the Parties adopted Decision 12.97 containing new terms of reference for the continued analysis and revision of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12), as follows:

*The Conference of the Parties adopted the following terms of reference for the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II, to be completed by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

- a) *The revised version of Annex 4 of document CoP12 Doc. 58 compiled by the Chairman of the Criteria Working Group (CWG) formed by Committee I during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (the CWG12 Chairman's text) will form a basis for further discussion, in recognition of the substantial and constructive efforts contributed by the Parties, the intersessional Criteria Working Group set up at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, FAO, the Criteria Working Group formed during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and others.*
  - b) *The Animals and Plants Committees shall coordinate an open, transparent and broadly consultative process involving all Parties to consider further revision of the CWG12 Chairman's text.*
  - c) *The process should include reviews of selected taxa, to ensure that the applicability of the criteria and guidelines to a broad array of taxa is assessed, and results of these reviews should be made widely available.*
  - d) *The Animals and Plants Committees shall report to the Standing Committee before a date to be established by the Standing Committee.*
3. At its 49th meeting (SC49, Geneva, April 2003), the Standing Committee established that the Animals and Plants Committees should submit at the present meeting, a progress report on the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II. The Standing Committee also agreed that the review should focus on the finalization of the text in CoP12 Com. I. 3 and that tests of the applicability of the criteria should be conducted on a limited number of taxa to be selected by the Animals and Plants Committees.

4. At their 13th and 19th meetings respectively (Geneva, August 2003), the Plants and Animals Committees adopted the following common approach for completing the review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II:
- a) The 'limited taxonomic review', as called for at SC49, should be conducted before any further discussion of changes to the existing text concerning the criteria. The draft revised criteria contained in document CoP12 Com. I. 3, as produced by the Criteria Working Group at CoP12, should therefore be used to conduct the taxonomic reviews. This would allow the identification of problems with the current text in document CoP12 Com. I. 3 before it is further revised.
  - b) To expedite the review process, the Animals and Plants Committees adopted at their meetings in August 2003 a list of taxa for review. This list of species includes taxa:
    - i) from a representative range of major taxonomic groups;
    - ii) that have geographically varied ranges;
    - iii) with varied life histories;
    - iv) that are involved in trade to different degrees and in different forms (i.e. live, parts and derivatives, etc.); and
    - v) whose biology, distribution, conservation status, population trends and trade are well documented (e.g. for which proposals were submitted at recent meetings of the Conference of the Parties, or which were recently reviewed under the Review of Significant Trade or periodic review of the Appendices, etc.).
  - c) The taxonomic reviews should be conducted intersessionally between meetings of the technical committees by a working group. The working group comprises the Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees, regional representatives in the Animals and Plants Committees, and observer Parties directly involved in the taxonomic reviews.
  - d) One or two Parties would conduct a coordinated taxonomic review of a single species with the collaboration, if necessary, of other relevant bodies willing to assist on a voluntary basis. The regional representatives would coordinate taxonomic reviews carried out by Parties within their respective regions and report to the Chairmen.
  - e) The analyses and conclusions reached by the intersessional working group should be reviewed at a joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees, if possible, in February 2004, and taking into account the comments received through the taxonomic reviews.
  - f) In order to help focus the revision of the draft revised criteria contained in document CoP12 Com. I. 3, to allow for comments on problem areas and provide a mechanism for recommending specific modifications to the text in document CoP12 Com. I. 3 to improve it for particular taxa, the taxonomic reviews should be conducted using a standard format.

- g) The following time-frame is designed to allow the Animals and Plants Committees to complete the tasks directed to them under Decision 12.97:

12-15 August 2003: The Animals and Plants Committees discussed the workplan and the list of species (animals, plants and fungi) for review at their meetings in Geneva, and achieved consensus on objectives and deadlines.

16 August to 5 September 2003: A contact group comprising Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, finalized edits to document CoP12 Com. I. 3 to produce a clean version (without strike-outs, coloured lines, marked changes or comments from the CoP12 Criteria Working Group), and with minor editorial corrections, and drafted guidelines for conducting the review.

6 September to 31 October 2003: A formal intersessional working group was established by the Animals and Plants Committees and, together with the Chairmen of the Committees, worked toward completing the taxonomic reviews of species, using a common format.

1–30 November 2003: The Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees compiled the results of the taxonomic reviews.

5 December 2003: The Secretariat posted the results of the taxonomic reviews on the CITES website.

5 December 2003-February 2004: Parties have been submitting comments on the results of taxonomic reviews to the Animals and Plants Committees through their regional representatives.

February 2004: The Animals and Plants Committees to hold a joint meeting<sup>1</sup>, if possible, to analyse the results of the taxonomic reviews, to discuss revisions of document CoP12 Com. I. 3, and to draft a Resolution for consideration at CoP13 in October 2004.

March 2004 (SC50): The Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees to submit a draft resolution<sup>2</sup> to the Standing Committee.

May 2004: A final draft resolution to be posted on the CITES website before the 150-day deadline for submitting documents for CoP13.

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<sup>1</sup> *The joint meeting has not been possible, but the Chairmen will try to attend both PC14 (Windhoek, 16-20 February 2004) and AC20 (Johannesburg, 29 March to 2 April 2004).*

<sup>2</sup> *It will not be possible to do this given that AC20 will be held after SC50. The Chairmen of the Animals and Plants Committees will present at the Standing Committee a progress report with the results of the discussions at PC14 only, and of the taxonomic reviews for animals and plants.*